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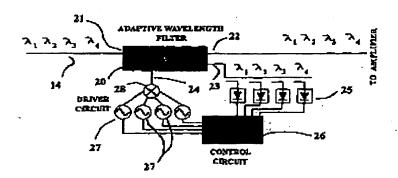
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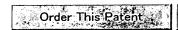
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Search scope: US Granted US Applications EP-A EP-B WO JP; Full patent spec.

Years: 1971-2002

Text: Patent/Publication No.: WO9710658









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#### WO9710658 A1

METHOD FOR INDEPENDENTLY CONTROLLING THE WAVELENGTH COMPONENT POWERS IN AN OPTICAL WAVELENGTH DIVISION MULTIPLEXED TRANSMISSION SYSTEM INTEGRATED OPTICAL COMPONENTS LIMITED O'DONNELL, Adrian, Charles Inventor(s):O'DONNELL, Adrian, Charles

Application No. GB9602278 GB, Filed 19960913, A1 Published 19970320

Abstract: A method of and apparatus for controlling the relative amplitudes of the individual wavelength components of a wavelength division multiplexed optical signal (14) employs an adaptive optical wavelength filter (20) through which the optical signal (14) is transferred. The filter (20) is controlled dependent upon an analysis of the powers of the individual wavelength components ('lambda'1, 'lambda'2...) of the optical signal so that the output powers may be balanced to have some predetermined relationship. One of a plurality of in–line optical filters, a demultiplexer and a further adaptive optical wavelength filter may be employed to analyse the powers of the wavelength components of the optical signal.

Int'l Class: H04J01402;

Priority: GB 9518922.1 19950915

Designated States: CA CN JP RU US AT BE CH DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LU MC NL PT

SE

Patents Cited:

→ EP0637148 (X)

→ EP0475016 (Y)

→ EP0467396 (A)

Non-Patent Citations:

 IEE PROCEEDINGS J. OPTOELECTRONICS, vol. 140, no. 5, PART J, 1 October 1993, pages 275-284, XP000412788 WEBER J -P: "SPECTRAL CHARACTERISTICS BRAGG-REFLECTION TUNABLE OPTICAL FILTER" (A) Title in French: PROCEDE PERMETTANT DE COMMANDER SEPAREMENT LES PUISSANCES DES COMPOSANTES DE LONGUEUR D'ONDE DANS UN SYSTEME DE TRANSMISSION OPTIQUE A MULTIPLEXAGE PAR REPARTITION EN LONGUEUR D'ONDE

#### Go to Claims

#### **Detailed Description**

METHOD FOR INDEPENDENTLY CONTROLLING THE WAVELENGTH COMPONENT POWERS IN AN OPTICAL WAVELENGTH DIVISION MULTIPLEXED TRANSMISSION SYSTEM This invention relates to a method of and apparatus for controlling the relative amplitudes of the individual wavelength components of a wavelength division multiplexed optical signal.

The use of wavelength division multiplexing on optical communications systems is rapidly expanding in order to increase the information carrying capacity of a system. In addition, such multiplexing also allows the provision of network switching and protection functions in an effective and economic manner. A wavelength division multiplexed optical signal propagated along optical fibre carries several channels at different wavelengths. At transmission, the wavelength component for any one channel normally has the same amplitude as that of the other channels, but as these wavelength components are processed through a network, the relative amplitudes of the channels become unbalanced.

The optical power per channel at key points in a network will vary depending upon the path taken to reach a given key point. Moreover, the optical power will vary dynamically should network reconfiguration or re-routing take place. Any initial wavelength imbalance in a transmitter will exacerbate the variation in channel optical power following processing of the optical signal through the network.

A further problem is that a typical optical amplifier has a non linear transfer function, in that the gain varies dependent upon the wavelength being amplified. If a wavelength division multiplexed optical signal is passed through such a non linear amplifier, any imbalance in the input signal will be worsened, so degrading the network performance.

The present invention aims at providing both a method of and apparatus for addressing the difficulties arising from optical power variation across the channels of a wavelength division multiplexed optical signal consequent upon the propagation of the wavelength components of that signal through a network.

According to one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of controlling the relative amplitudes of the individual wavelength components of a wavelength division multiplexed optical signal, in which method the wavelength division multiplexed optical signal is processed through an adaptive optical wavelength filter, the relative powers of each wavelength component of the optical signal are determined, and a complex control signal is supplied to the adaptive optical wavelength filter which control signal includes a control component for each wavelength component of the multiplexed optical signal, 'the magnitude of each control component being adjusted dependent upon the determined power of the respective optical signal wavelength component.

The present invention makes use of the transfer characteristics of an adaptive optical wavelength filter, known per se. Embodiments of such filters include acousto-optic and electro-optic tunable f ilters. In the case of either of these types of filter, there is an optical waveguide for an optical signal and the transfer function for an optical signal is defined by virtue of a stress-induced birefringence.

The interaction between the optical signal and the stressed waveguide results in a polarisation conversion of the optical signal. As a result, if polarisation selective elements are added before and/or after the interactive section of the filter, the passband on the (or each) output port of the filter will be governed by whether polarisation conversion has occurred.

In the case of an acousto-optic filter, the stress-induced birefringence is defined by injecting into the filter a lower frequency waveform, i.e.

electromagnetic energy typically in the range of a few hundred MHz. In the case of an electrooptic filter, the birefrigence is induced by an electrode structure arranged along the wave guide.

An adaptive optical wavelength filter as described above allows for the selective addition or subtraction of a wavelength division multiplexed channel from an optical communication network. The simultaneous addition or subtraction of multiple channels can be achieved by the use of an appropriately configured filter of this kind.

The two types of adaptive optical wavelength filter usually employed in optical networks are known as acousto-optic and electro-optic tunable filters. In the former, a relatively low frequency control signal k- is applied to the filter, and in the latter, a d.c.

control signal is applied to the filter electrode structure, there being a separate electrode structure for each channel. Either kind of filter may be used in the present invention. Both kinds of filter may be configured to have more than one output port and it is preferred to use such a filter, with the channel power determination being performed on the output from one port, and the principal optical signal being propagated from the other output port. Conveniently, for the generation of an appropriate control signal, the output at said one port is the inverse of the output at said other port. Alternatively, the filter may have a single output port and the channel power determination is performed on the optical signal obtained from a passive tapping on the output from that port.

In performing the method of this invention, consideration must be given to the locking, in terms of absolute wavelengths, of the filter performing the adaptive filtering and the elements performing the determination of power levels within the different channels to define the adaption required in the filter.

A 'window' could be set, which would be a fraction (perhaps 40%) of the channel separation between the channels. The optical signals transmitted may therefore be anywhere within this 'window' for each channel, and so both the optical filter and the network will need fairly broad responses to these 'windows! .

As a result, the filter and channel power determining elements (analyser) will need to be locked tightly only if the responses are well matched. A more relaxed locking requirement would be possible if the analyser has slightly wider 'windows' than the filter. In a case where the analyser takes the form of a passive is demultiplexer, this may be achieved by changing the specification of the filters and other components within the demultiplexer. Alternatively, where the analyser comprises a second active filter, a small design change to widen the filter response may be all that is required to achieve a relaxed locking regime, as both filters would, in such an arrangement, be locked to the same driver circuit.

The transmission standards for an optical communication network define specific centre wavelengths for the network. Consequently, no locking of the adaptive filters to each other, across the network, should be required.

According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided apparatus for controlling the relative amplitudes of the individual wavelength components of a wavelength division multiplexed optical signal, which apparatus comprises an adaptive optical wavelength

relative powers of the wavelength components of the processed optical signal, control means responsive to the determined powers of each wavelength component and providing a complex control signal to 'the adaptive optical wavelength filter which complex control signal includes a control component for each wavelength component of the multiplexed optical signal, the control means controlling the magnitude of each control component dependent upon the determined power of the respective optical signal wavelength component.

In the present invention, the complex control signal has a control component for each wavelength channel of the optical signal, the energy or magnitude of each such component being controlled dependent upon the detected power of each wavelength component of the optical signal. In order to achieve a closed loop feedback system, the relative powers of the individual wavelength components of the optical signal should be determined following the processing of that signal in the adaptive optical wavelength filter.

When an acousto-optic tunable filter is employed, the control signal will have a frequency component for each channel of the optical signal, the energy of each such frequency component being adjusted in order to control the power of the respective wavelength component of the optical signal. If an electro-optic tunable filter is employed, the control signal will have a d.c. component for each channel of the optical signal, each d.c. component being applied to the respective electrode structure of the filter to control the power of the respective channel of the optical signal, dependent upon the voltage of the applied d.c.

#### control component.

The determination of the power of each channel of a wavelength division multiplexed optical signal may be performed by any suitable manner known in the art. For example, in-line optical filters may be employed to separate a portion of the optical signal into its individual wavelength components, the amplitude of each of which then being determined for instance by an individual photo-detector for each channel. Instead of the use of optical filters, a wavelength division demultiplexer may be employed to separate a portion of the optical signal into individual wavelength components.

The determination of the power of each channel of the optical signal may instead be determined by a further adaptive optical wavelength filter similar to that employed to control the magnitude of each wavelength component of the optical signal. Such a further filter may sample each channel of the optical signal, in sequence, the output of the further filter sequentially corresponding to the power of each channel of the optical signal. By linking the two filters to the same driver circuit, the operation of the two filters will be closely locked to each other and the signal wavelengths being analysed. With this arrangement, the two filters could be arranged on one integrated circuit.

The magnitude of each control component of the control signal may be adjusted such that the relative powers of each wavelength component of the optical signal are, after processing in the filter, substantially the same. Alternatively, when the processed optical signal is subsequently to be processed through a non-linear component such as an optical amplifier, each control component of the control signal may be adjusted having regard to the transfer function of the subsequent non-linear component. In this way, the power of all wavelength channels of the optical signal may be controlled so as to be essentially the same, following processing through the non-linear component.

By way of example only, the invention will now be described in greater detail and certain specific examples thereof given, reference being made to the accompanying drawings, in which:— Figure I schematically shows a network for the processing of wavelength division multiplexed optical signals; Figure 2 diagrammatically illustrates a first example of a method of this invention; Figure 3 diagrammatically illustrates a second example of a method of this invention, similar to that of

Figure 2; Figure 4 diagrammatically illustrates a third example, using a filter to analyse the channel wavelengths; Figure 5 illustrates yet another example, similar to that of Figure 4; Figure 6 shows the transfer function of an adaptive filter, showing the slewing of power between the secondary and main outputs of the filter, as used in the embodiment of Figure 2; and Figures 7A and 7B compare the output signals from a non-linear optical amplifier, respectively without and with adaptive balancing according to this invention.

Figure 1 diagrammatically illustrates a network including a plurality of switching nodes 10 for optical signals propagated along optical fibres 11. The signals may be multi-channel wavelength division multiplexed signals and so there may be a plurality of wavelengths appearing at any one or more of the nodes 10. For example, fibre 12 may be carrying a channel of wavelength A\_1 and of amplitude al, and fibre 13 a channel of wavelengthZ2 and amplitude a2. If these channels are switched both to appear on fibre 14 as a wavelength division multiplexed signal, though both signals had the same amplitude on entering the network, following the processing through the nodes, the relative amplitudes of the two channels will be as shown at a3. Upon subsequent processing of that multiplexed signal, the difference in the amplitudes of the two channels will be exacerbated, leading to possible difficulties in recovering the smaller amplitude channel.

Figure 2 shows the processing of a wavelength division multiplexed signal with channel amplitudes out of balance, such as the signal on fibre 14 of Figure 1.

An electro-optic or acousto-optic adaptive filter 20 has an input port 21 and main and secondary output ports 22 and 23 respectively. The filter further has a control port 24. Such a filter is known per se in the art and will not be described in further detail here.

Optical fibre 14 carrying a wavelength division multiplexed signal is connected to the input port 21 and a further fibre to the main output port 22. All of the input channels appear at both the main and secondary ports, but the signal from the secondary port 23 is supplied to a wavelength demultiplexer (not shown, but known per se in the art) in order to provide individual channel components to a group of photo—detectors 25, with one channel component supplied to each photo—detector respectively. The photo—detectors each determine the power of the channel component supplied thereto and in turn provide an output to a control circuit 26. That circuit 26 controls the operation of a plurality of oscillators 27, one oscillator for each wavelength channel of the input signal; the outputs of the oscillators 27 are combined at 28 and supplied to the control port 24 of the filter.

Figure 3 shows an arrangement similar to that of Figure 2, but the adaptive filter 20 has only a main output port 22. The input to the channel power analyser section of the arrangement is taken from a passive tapping 29 on the main output from the filter.

In all other respects this arrangement corresponds to that of Figure 2 and will not be described in further detail here.

The third embodiment shown in Figure 4 employs a channel power analyser section utilising a second adaptive wavelength filter 30 the input port 31 of which is connected to the secondary output port 23 of the principal adaptive filter 20. A single control circuit 32 controls the operation of two separate sets 33 and 34 of oscillators, the two sets of oscillators being associated with the two adaptive filters 20 and 30 respectively. The outputs of the is oscillators of each set are combined at 35 and 36 respectively and the resultant control signals are supplied to the control ports 24 and 37 respectively, of the two adaptive filters 20 and 30.

The output of the adaptive filter 30 is supplied to a single photo-detector 38 and the signal. indicative of the power of the channel component instantaneously supplied to the photo-detector 38 is fed to the control circuit 32, in order to control the appropriate oscillator of the set 33 associated with the filter 20.

In this way, the powers of the various wavelengths in the signal leaving the main output port of the filter may be balanced as required, with the analysis of the powers of the channels being performed using the further adaptive filter 30 for sampling the channels one at a time, in sequence, under the control of circuit 32. By using a single control circuit 32, the operation of the embodiment may properly be synchronised to ensure that the transfer function of the filter 20 for each channel is properly matched to the detected power of that channel.

Figure 5 illustrates a further embodiment similar to that of Figure 4 in that a second adaptive filter 30 is employed to perform the analysis of the multi- channel signal passing through the filter 20. In this case, rather than providing two separate sets of oscillators a single set 40 is arranged to control both filters 20 and 30. For controlling the filter 20, the outputs from the oscillators are passed through elements 41 the effective resistance of which can be varied by the control circuit 32, before the outputs are combined and supplied to the control port 24 of filter 20. An output is also taken from each oscillator to a switch circuit 43, the operation of the switch being performed by the control circuit 32 so that the appropriate oscillator output is supplied to the control port of filter 30 in a timed relationship to the operation of the oscillators.

In other respects, the operation of the embodiment of Figure 5 corresponds to that of Figure 4 and will not be described further here.

Figure 6 shows, for the embodiments any of Figures 2,4 or 5, the relationship between the optical powers appearing at the main and secondary ports 22 and 23, for any one wavelength channel of a signal supplied to the input port 21, when a suitable high frequency control signal is supplied to the control port 24. By adjusting the energy of the control signal, the transfer function of the filter for the channel associated with the frequency of the control signal can be varied. The power of the output signal at the secondary port 23 is the inverse of the power of the signal at the main output port 22.

By suitably varying the energy of the control signal, the power of the optical signal at the main output port 22 may be controlled to have a desired value. Such control is performed dependent upon the determined power of the signal from the secondary I I output port 23. The control circuit may thus be configured to define a closed loop system to ensure the power of the optical system at the main output port is maintained constant at a desired value, irrespective of variations in the power of the optical signal at the input port 21.

Figure 7A shows the effect of a typical non-linear optical amplifier 45 on a wavelength division multiplexed optical signal the relative powers of the individual channels of which are as shown at 46. As can be seen at 47, following processing by the amplifier 45, the relative imbalance in the channel powers is increased. However, by subjecting the input signal to the amplifier 45 to adaptive balancing by the method and apparatus of this invention as described above, the relative powers of the channels of the output signal from the amplifier 45 may all be substantially the same, as shown in Figure 7B at 48.

#### Claims (English)

CLAIMS 1. A method of controlling the relative amplitudes of the individual wavelength components of a wavelength division multiplexed optical signal, in which method the wavelength division multiplexed optical signal is processed through an adaptive optical wavelength filter, the relative powers of each wavelength component of the optical signal are determined, and a complex control signal is supplied to the adaptive optical wavelength filter which control signal includes a control component for each wavelength component of the multiplexed optical signal, the magnitude of each control component being adjusted dependent upon the determined power of the respective optical signal wavelength component.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the relative powers of the individual wavelength components of the optical signal are determined following the processing of the signal in the

MicroPatent PatSearch - WO9710658A1 adaptive optical wavelength filter.

- 3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein a portion of the optical signal is separated into the individual wavelength components thereof, and the power of each separated component is determined.
- 4. A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein in-line optical filters are employed to separate the portion of the optical signal into individual wavelength components.
- 5. A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein a wavelength division demultiplexer is employed to separate the portion of the optical signal into individual wavelength components.
- 6. A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein an adaptive optical wavelength filter is employed to separate the optical signal into its individual wavelength components, the output of the filter being used to determine the power of each wavelength component.
- 7. A method as claimed in any of the preceding

claims, wherein the magnitude of each frequency component of the control signal is adjusted such that the relative powers of each wavelength component of the optical signal are, after processing, substantially the same.

- B. A method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the magnitude of each frequency component of the control signal is adjusted such that the relative powers of each wavelength component of the optical signal are, after processing, in a pre-set non- identical relationship.
- 9. A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the pre- set relationship is determined having regard to the transfer function of a non-linear optical component in which the optical signal is subsequently to be processed.
- 10. A method as claimed in any of the preceding

claims, wherein the adaptive optical wavelength filter comprises one of an acousto-optic tunable filter and an electro-optic tunable filter.

- 11. A method as claimed in 10, wherein the adaptive optical wavelength filter has primary and secondary processed signal outputs, the determination of the relative powers being performed on the secondary processed output of the filter.
- 12. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the signal obtained from the secondary output is the inverse of the signal obtained from the primary output.
- 13. Apparatus for controlling the relative amplitudes of the individual wavelength components of a wavelength division multiplexed optical signal, which apparatus comprises an adaptive optical wavelength filter through which the optical signal is passed for processing therein, means to determine the relative powers of the wavelength components of the processed optical signal, control means responsive to the determined powers of each wavelength component and providing a complex control signal to the adaptive optical wavelength filter which complex control signal includes a control component for each wavelength component of the multiplexed optical signal, the control means controlling the magnitude of each control component dependent upon the determined power of the respective optical signal wavelength component.
- 14. Apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein said determining means includes separating means to separate each wavelength component of the wavelength division multiplexed optical signal.
- 15. Apparatus as claimed in claim 14 wherein said separating means comprises one of a plurality

Fin-line optical filters, a demultiplexer and a further adaptive optical wavelength filter.







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(19)日本国特許庁(JP)

## (12) 公表特許公報(A)

(11)特許出願公表番号

特表平11-511619

(43)公表日 平成11年(1999)10月5日

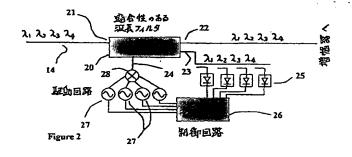
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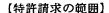
	審査請求 未請求 予備審査請求 有 (全 18 頁)
(21) 出願番号 特願平9-511775 (86) (22) 出願日 平成8年(1996) 9月13日 (85) 翻訳文提出日 平成10年(1998) 3月16日 (86) 国際出願番号 PCT/GB96/02278 (87) 国際公開番号 WO97/10658 (87) 国際公開日 平成9年(1997) 3月20日 (31) 優先権主張番号 9518922.1	(71)出願人 インテグレイテッド オプティカル コンポーネンツ リミテッド グレートプリテン及び北部アイルランド連合王国 シー・エム8 3ワイ・キューエセックス州、ウィットハム、イーストウェイズ、ウォーターサイド・ビジネス・パーク 3
(32)優先日 1995年9月15日 (33)優先権主張国 イギリス (GB) (81)指定国 EP(AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, L U, MC, NL, PT, SE), CA, CN, JP, R U, US	(72)発明者 アドリアン チャールズ オドネル グレートプリテン及び北部アイルランド連 合王国 シー・エム2 9ティー・キュー エセックス州、チェルムスフォード、グ レート・パドウ、ビーハイド・レーン 53 (74)代理人 弁理士 狩野 彰

#### (54) 【発明の名称】 光学的波長分割多重伝送システムにおける波長要素強度を独立して制御する方法

#### (57)【要約】

被長分割多重伝送光信号(14)の個々の波長要素の相対強度を制御するための方法及び装置は、光信号(14)が伝達される、適合性のある光波長フィルタ(20)を用いている。当該フィルタ(20)は、出力強度が平衡されて予め定めた関係になるように、光信号の個々の波長要素(λ1,λ2····)の出力の分析に依存して、制御される。複数のイン・ライン光フィルタ、1つのデマルチプレクサ、及びさらに1つの適合性のある光波長フィルタのうちの1つは、光信号の波長要素の強度を分析するために用いられうる。





- 1. 波長分割多重伝送光信号の別々の波長成分の相対強度を制御する方法であって、波長分割多重伝送光信号は、適合性のある光波長フィルタを通過して処理され、光信号の各波長要素の相対強度が決定され、そして、複合制御信号は、適合性のある光波長フィルターに供給され、当該制御信号が多重伝送光信号の各波長要素のための制御要素を含み、各制御要素の強度は、それぞれの光信号波長要素の決定された強度に依存して調整される方法。
- 2. 光信号の個々の波長要素の相対強度が、適合性のある光波長フィルタにおける信号の処理に従って、決定される特許請求の範囲第1項に記載の方法。
- 3. 光信号の一部分がその個々の波長成分に分離され、そして、各分離された 成分の強度が決定される特許請求の範囲第1項または第2項に記載の方法。
- 4. イン・ラインの光フィルタが光フィルタの一部分を個々の波長要素に分離 するために用いられている特許請求の範囲第3項に記載の方法。
- 5. 波長分割デマルチプレクサが光信号の一部分を個々の波長要素に分離する ために用いられている特許請求の範囲第3項に記載の方法。
- 6. 適合性のある光波長フィルタが光信号の一部分を個々の波長要素に分離するために用いられ、そして、当該フィルタの出力が各波長要素の強度を決定するのに用いられる特許請求の範囲第3項に記載の方法。
- 7. 制御信号の各周波数要素の強度は、光信号の各波長要素の相対強度が処理 後に、ほぼ同一であるように、調整される特許請求の範囲第1項から第6項まで のいずれか1つに記載の方法。
- 8. 制御信号の各周波数要素の強度は、光信号の各波長要素の相対強度が、処理後に、予め設定した、非同一の関係である特許請求の範囲第1項から第4項までのいずれか1つに記載の方法。
- 9. 予め設定した関係は、光信号が実質的に処理される、非線型の光要素の伝達関数に注意を払って決定される特許請求の範囲第8項に記載の方法。
- 10. 適合性のある光波長フィルタは、音響光学の調整可能なフィルタ及び電子 光学の調整可能なフィルタの1つを含んでいる特許請求の範囲第1項から第10

項までのいずれか1つに記載の方法。

- 11. 適合性のある光波長フィルタは第1及び第2の処理済信号の出力を有し、 そして、相対強度の決定がフィルタの第2の処理済出力で行われる特許請求の範囲第10項に記載の方法。
- 12. 第2の出力から得られる信号が第1の出力から得られる信号の逆である特許請求の範囲第11項に記載の方法。
- 13. 波長分割多重伝送光信号の個々の波長要素の相対強度を制御する装置であって、その中で処理されるために光信号が通過される、適合性のある光波長フィルタと、処理された光信号の波長要素の相対強度を決定する手段と、各波長要素の決定された振幅に応答し、かつ、多重伝送光信号の各波長要素についての制御要素を含む複合制御信号を適合性のある光波長フィルタに供給する制御手段と、を備え、当該制御手段は、それぞれの光信号波長要素の決定された強度に依存して、各制御要素の強度を制御する装置。
- 14. 上記決定する手段が波長分割多重伝送光信号の各波長要素を分離する分離 手段を含んでいる特許請求の範囲第13項に記載の方法。
- 15. 上記分離手段が複数のイン・ライン光フィルタ及び1つのデマルチプレク サ及び1つのさらなる適合性のある光波長フィルタのうちの1つを備えている特 許請求の範囲第14項に記載の装置。

#### 【発明の詳細な説明】

光学的波長分割多重伝送システムにおける波長要素強度を独立して制御する方法 本発明は、光学的波長分割多重伝送システムにおける個々の波長構成要素の相 対強度を制御する方法及び装置に関する。

光通信システムにおける波長分割多重伝送の利用は、システムの情報伝送容量を増大するために、急激に拡大している。さらに、当該多重伝送によって、ネットワークの切り替え及び保護機能が、効率的に、かつ、経済的に達成されるようになる。光ファイバーに沿って伝播される波長分割多重伝送光信号は、異なった波長で数個のチャンネルを搬送する。伝送において、各々の1コのチャンネルのための波長要素は、通常、他のチャンネルのそれと同一の振幅を有している。しかし、これらの波長要素は、ネットワークを通過して処理されるので、当該チャンネルの相対振幅は不均衡になる。

1つのネットワーク中のキー・ポイントでのチャンネルごとの光強度は、所定のキー・ポイントへ到達する経路に依存して、異なる。さらに、当該光強度は、もしネットワークの再配列あるいは再ルーティングが行われれば、大幅に異なる。送信機における波長の初期不均衡は、光信号がネットワークを通過して処理されるにしたがって、チャンネル光強度の変動は悪化する。

さらなる問題点は、典型的光増幅器が非線型伝達関数を持っていることである。 すなわち、増幅された波長によってゲイン(増幅率)が異なる。 もし波長分割 多重伝送光信号がそのような増幅器を通過すると、入力信号の不均衡は悪化し、 ネットワーク性能を劣化する。

本発明は、ネットワークを通過して波長分割多重伝送光信号の波長要素の伝播 の結果として起こる波長分割多重伝送光信号のチャンネルにわたる光強度の変動 から生ずる困難を解決するための方法及び装置を提供することを目的としている

本発明の1つの態様によれば、波長分割多重伝送光信号のそれぞれの波長要素

の相対振幅を制御する方法であって、当該波長分割多重伝送光信号が適応性のある 光波長フィルタを通して処理され、当該光信号の各波長成分の相対強度が決定 され、そして、複合制御信号が当該適応性のある光波長フィルタに供給される方法を提供するが、当該制御信号は当該多重伝送光信号の各波長成分のための制御要素を含み、各制御要素の強度は、それぞれの光信号波長要素の所定の強度によって、適合されるものである。

本発明は、本質的に知られている、適応性のある光波長フィルタの伝達特性を利用する。このようなフィルタの実施態様には、音響光学的調整可能フィルタ及び電子光学的フィルタが含まれている。これらの型式のフィルタのいずれか1つの場合には、光信号のための光波ガイドがあり、光信号の伝達関数は、応力誘起複屈折によって決定される。光信号と応力を加えられた波ガイドとの間の相互作用は、当該光信号の偏光変換に帰着する。結果として、もし偏光選択的要素がフィルタの相互作用区域の前及び/または後に付加されているならば、フィルタの出力ポート(あるいは各出力ポート)の通過帯域は、偏光変換が生じたか否かによって支配される。

音響光学的フィルタの場合には、圧力誘起複屈折は、電磁エネルギーが典型的には数百MHzの範囲の比較的低周波数の波形を当該フィルタに入射することによって、定義される。電子光学的フィルタの場合には、光ガイドに沿って配置された電極構造によって複屈折は誘起される。

上記のように定義される、適合性のある光波長フィルタによって、光通信ネットワークからの波長分割多重伝送チャンネルの選択的加算あるいは選択的減算が可能となる。多チャンネルの同時加算あるいは同時減算は、この種の適切に形成されたフィルタを用いることによって、達成される。

光ネットワークで通常使用されている、適合性のある2つの典型的光波長フィルタは、音響光学的調整可能なフィルタ及び電子光学的調整可能なフィルタとして知られている。前者の場合には、比較的低周波数の制御信号が当該フィルタに適用され、そして、後者の場合には、直流電流制御信号が当該フィルタ電極構造に適用され、各チャンネルについて、個別の電極構造がある。本発明においては、いずれの種類のフィルタを使用することができる。両方の種類のフィルタも1

以上の出力ポートを持つように形成されてもよく、そして、1つのポートの出力

について、チャンネル強度の決定が行われ、かつ、主要な光信号が他の出力ポートから伝播される、フィルタを使用するのが好ましい。適切な制御信号を生成するためには、当該1つのポートの出力が当該他のポートの出力の反転であると都合が良い。選択的に、当該フィルタが単一出力ポートを持っていてもよく、そして、チャンネル強度の決定は、当該ポートからの出力についての受動タッピングから得られる光学信号について行われる。

本発明の方法を実施する際には、フィルタに要求される適合を決定するために 、異なるチャンネルにおける強度レベルの決定を行う要素と、適合性のあるフィ ルタリングを行うフィルタとについての、絶対的波長に関しての、ロッキングを 考慮に入れなければならない。チャンネル間のチャンネル分離割合がたぶん40 %である、「ウィンドウ」がセットされてもよい。伝送された光信号は、それゆ え、各チャンネルについて、この「ウィンドウ」の中にあり、そして、光フィル タ及びネットワークの両者には、これら「ウィンドウ」に対して、優れた広域の 応答が必要である。結果として、応答がよくマッチングする場合にのみ、フィル タ及びチャンネル強度決定要素(アナライザ)は、厳密にロックされる必要があ る。もしアナライザがフィルタよりわずかに広い「ウィンドウ」を有している場 合には、より緩やかなロッキングであってもよい。アナライザが受動デマルチプ レクサの形態をとる場合には、フィルタのスペック及びデマルチプレクサ中の他 の要素のスペックを変更することによって、これは達成される。選択的には、ア ナライザが第2の能動フィルタからなる場合には、フィルタ応答を広くする、小 さな設計変更が、緩やかにロックする方式を達成するために要求されるすべてで ある。そのような配列においては、両方のフィルタは同一の駆動回路に対してロ ックされるからである。

光通信ネットワークの伝送標準によって、ネットワークの特定の中央波長を決められる。結果として、ネットワークをわたって、互いに適合されるフィルタが ロックされることは、要求されない。

本発明の第2の態様によれば、波長分割多重伝送光信号の相対強度を制御する ための装置が提供され、当該装置は、光信号がそこで処理されるために通過する 、適合性のある光波長フィルタと、処理された光信号の波長成分の相対強度を決定する手段と、各波長成分の決定された強度に対し応答し、かつ、多重伝送される光信号の各波長成分のための制御信号を含む複合制御信号を適合性のある光波長フィルタに供給する制御手段と、を含み、そして、当該制御手段は、それぞれの光信号波長要素の決定された強度に依存して、各制御要素の強度を制御する。

本発明においては、複合制御信号は光信号の各波長チャンネルのための制御要素を有しており、そして、各制御要素のエネルギーまたは強度は、光信号の各波長要素の検出された振幅に依存して制御される。閉ループ・フィードバック系を達成するために、光信号の個々の波長成分の相対強度は、適合性のある光波長フィルタにおける当該光信号の処理に従って、決定されるべきである。

音響光学の調整可能なフィルタが用いられる場合には、制御信号は光信号の各チャンネルのための周波数要素を有し、そして、各周波数要素のエネルギーは、光信号の各波長要素の強度を制御するために調整される。もし電子光学の調整可能なフィルタが用いられているならば、制御信号は、光信号の各チャンネルのために、直流電流要素を有しており、そして、各直流電流要素は、光信号のそれぞれのチャンネルの強度を制御するために、適用される直流電流要素の電圧に依存して、フィルタのそれぞれの電極構造に適用される。

波長分割多重伝送光信号の各チャンネルの強度の決定は、当業界で知られている適当な方法によって行われてもよい。例えば、イン・ライン光フィルタは、光信号の一部分をその個々の波長要素に分離するために用いられてもよく、そして、それらの各々の波長要素の強度は、瞬時に、各チャンネルについての個々の光検出器によって決定される。光フィルタの使用の替りとして、光分割デマルチプレクサが、光信号の一部分を個々の波長要素に分離するために、使用されてもよい。

光信号の各チャンネルの強度の決定は、光信号の各波長成分の振幅を制御する ために用いられるフィルタと類似する、さらなる適合性のある光波長フィルタに よって、むしろ決定されてもよい。そのようなさらなるフィルタは光信号の各チャンネルをサンプルし、結果として、さらなるフィルタの出力は、順次、光信号 の各チャンネルの強度に対応する。同一の駆動回路に対して2つのフィルタをリ ンクさせることによって、2つのフィルタの動作は、互いに密接にロックされ、 そして、信号波長は分析される。この配置によって、2つのフィルタは1つの集 積回路に配置されうる。

制御信号の各制御要素の強度は、フィルタでの処理の後に、光信号の各波長要素の相対強度がほぼ同一になるように、調整されてもよい。選択的に、処理された光信号は、順次に、光増幅器のような非線型要素を通過して処理されるときには、制御信号の各制御要素は、後続の非線型要素の伝達関数を考慮して調整されてもよい。このようにして、光信号のすべての波長チャンネルの強度は、非線型要素を通過して処理されることに従って、本質的に同一になるように制御されてもよい。

単に例示として、以下に本発明についてさらに詳細に記載し、本発明の実施形態が、添付図面を参照して記載される。

図1は、波長分割多重伝送光信号の処理のためのネットワークを概略的に示している。

図2は、本発明の方法の第1の実施形態を図示している。

図3は、図2と類似する、本発明の方法の第2の実施形態を図示している。

図4は、チャンネル波長を分析するためにフィルタを用いた、第3の実施形態 を図示している。

図5は、図4に類似する他の実施形態を示している。

図6は、図2の実施形態において用いたフィルタの第2の出力と主出力との間 の強度の変化を示し、適合性のあるフィルタの伝達関数を示している。

図7A及び図7Bは、それぞれ、本発明の適合性のある平衡なし及びありの非 線型充増幅器からの出力信号を比較している。

図 1 は、光ファイバ 1 1 に沿って伝播された光信号についての、複数の切り替え節点 1 0 を含むネットワークを概略的に示している。信号は多チャンネル波長分割多重伝送信号であってもよく、そして、1 または 2 以上の節点 1 0 に現れる複数の波長が存在してもよい。例えば、ファイバ 1 2 は波長 $\lambda_1$ で振幅  $\alpha_1$ のチャンネルを搬送し、そして、ファイバ 1 4 は波長 $\lambda_2$ で振幅  $\alpha_2$ のチャンネルを搬送している。もしこれらのチャンネルが、1 つの波長分割多重伝送信号として

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、ファイバ 14 に現れるように切り替えられるならば、たとえネットワークに入る際に両信号が同一の振幅を有していても、節点を通過して処理されるにしたがって、当該 2 つのチャンネルの相対振幅は $\alpha_3$  で示されるようになる。この多重 伝送信号の順次の処理において、よりちいさな振幅チャンネルを回復することに おける可能な困難性へ入り口となって、差は悪化される。

図2は、図1のファイバ14の信号のように、不均衡のチャンネル振幅を有する被長分割多重伝送信号の処理を示している。電子光学の、あるいは、音響光学の適合性のあるフィルタ20は入力ポート21と主出力ポート22第2出力ポート23を有している。さらに、フィルタは制御ポート24を有している。このようなフィルタは当業界で本質的に知られており、ここではさらに詳細に説明しない。

波長分割多重伝送信号を搬送している光ファイバ14は、入力ポート21に接続され、そして、さらなるファイバが主出力ポート22に接続されている。すべての入力チャンネルは主及び第2のポートの両方に現れているが、しかし、第二のポート23からの信号は、個々のチャンネル要素を一群の光検出器25に供給し、1つのチャンネル要素を、それぞれ、各光検出器に供給するために、不図示であるが、、当業界で本質的に知られている、波長デマルチプレクサへ供給される。各光検出器は、それへ供給されるチャンネル要素の強度を決定し、そして、順に、制御回路26に出力を供給する。この回路26は、複数のオシレータ27の動作を制御し、入力信号の各波長チャンネルごとに1個のオシレータが設けてある。オシレータ27の出力は28において複合され、そして、フィルタの制御ポート24へ供給される。

図3は、図2の配置と類似の配置を示しているが、しかし、適合性のあるフィルタ20が主出力ポート22のみを有している。この配置のチャンネル強度分析区画への入力はフィルタからの主出力の受動タッピング29から与えられている。他のすべての点で、この配置は図2の配置に対応しており、ここではさらに詳細に記載しない。

図4に示されている第3の実施形態は第2の適合性のある波長フィルタ30を 使用したチャンネル強度分析区画を用いており、そして、第2の適合性のある波 長フィルタの入力ポート31は主の適合性のあるフィルタ20の第2の出力ポート23に接続されている。単一の制御回路32は2組の別個のオシレータ33及び34の動作を制御し、そして、2組のオシレータは、それぞれ2個の適合性のあるフィルタ20及び30に関連付けられている。各組のオシレータの出力は、それぞれ、35及び36で複合され、そして、合成された制御信号が、2個の適合性のあるフィルタ20及び30の、それぞれの制御ポート24及び37に供給される。

適合性のあるフィルタ30の出力は単一の光検出器38へ供給され、そして、即時に光検出器38へ供給される、チャンネル要素の強度の信号標示(the sig nal indicative)は、フィルタ20と関連付けられたセット33の適切なオシレータを制御するために、制御回路32に供給される。このようにして、フィルタ20の主出力ポートから送出される信号の種々の波長の強度は、回路32の制御のもとに、複数のチャンネル強度をサンプリングするためにさらなる適合性のあるフィルタ30を用いて、複数のチャンネルの強度の分析が行われて、要求のとおりに、均衡されうる。単一の制御回路32を使用することによって、当該実施形態の動作は、各チャンネルのためのフィルタ20の伝達関数そのチャンネルの強度を検出するために適切にマッチすることを確実にするために、適切に周期されうる。

図5は、図4の実施形態に類似するさらなる実施形態を示しているが、第2の 適合性のあるフィルタ30が、フィルタ20を通過する多チャンネル信号の分析 を行うために用いられている。この場合においては、オシレータの2個の個別セットを供給するよりはむしろ、単一のセット40がフィルタ20及び30の両方を制御するために配置されている。フィルタ20を制御ボート24に供給される前に、実効抵抗が制御回路32よって変化可能な要素41を通過して、伝送される。また、出力は各オシレータからスイッチ回路43へ伝送され、そして、切替の動作は、適切なオシレータ出力が、オシレータ動作に対し適時の関係でフィルタ30の制御ポートへ供給されるように、制御回路によって、行われる。

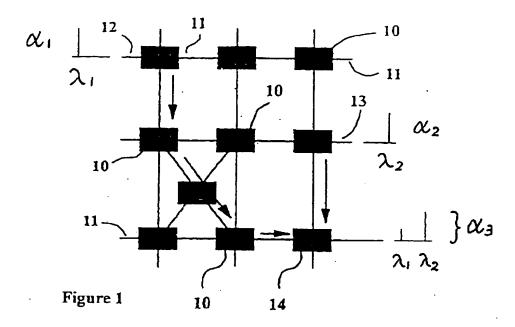
他の視点においては、図5の実施形態の動作は図4の実施形態の動作に対応しており、ここではさらに記載しない。

図6は、図2、4または5のいずれか1つの実施形態において、適切な高周波数の制御信号が制御ポート24に供給されている時に、入力ポート21に供給される信号のいずれか1つの波長チャンネルについて、主ポート、22及び2次ポート23に現れる光学強度間の関係を示している。制御信号の強度を調整することによって、制御信号の周波数に関連付けられたチャンネルについてのフィルタの伝達関数は変動させることが可能である。第2ポート23における出力信号の強度は、主出力ポート22における信号の強度の逆である。

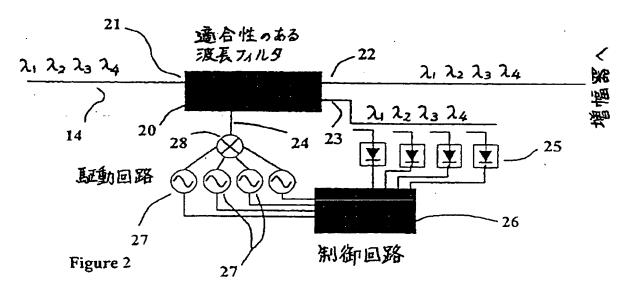
制御信号の強度を適切に変動させることによって、主出力ポート22における 光信号の強度は、所望の値となるように制御されうる。このような制御は、第2 出力ポート23からの信号の強度に依存して、行われる。このようにして、入力 ポート21での光信号の強度が変化しても、主出力ポートにおける光システムの 強度が所望の値の一定に保たれることを確実にするために、制御回路は閉ループ 系を構成するように形成されている。

図7Aは、波長分割多重伝送光信号についての典型的な非線型光増幅器45の影響を示して下り、そして、波長分割多重伝送光信号の相対強度は46に示すとおりである。47でわかるように、増幅器45による処理に従って、チャンネル強度における比較的平衡が増加する。しかしながら、上記の本発明の方法及び装置によって平衡を適合するため増幅器45へ入力信号が付加させることによって、増幅器45からの出力信号のチャンネルの相対強度は、図7B中の48に示すように、すべて実質的に同一となりうる。

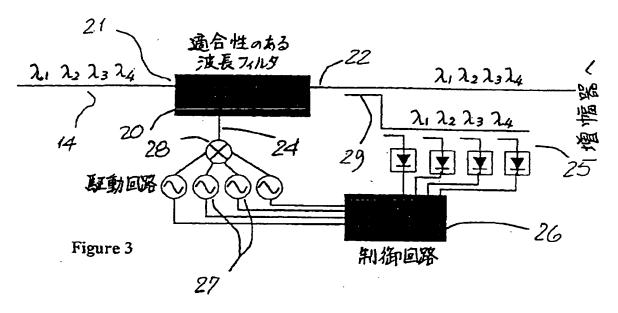
[図1]



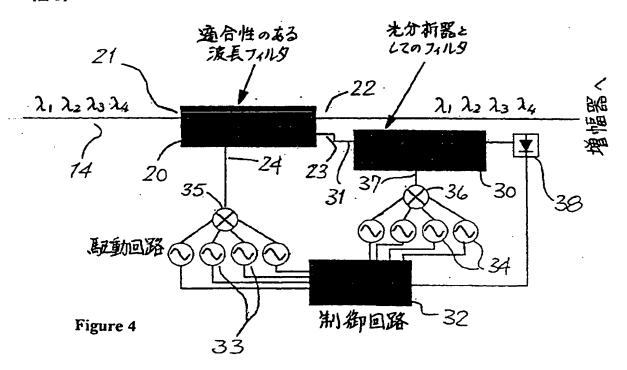
【図2】



[図3]

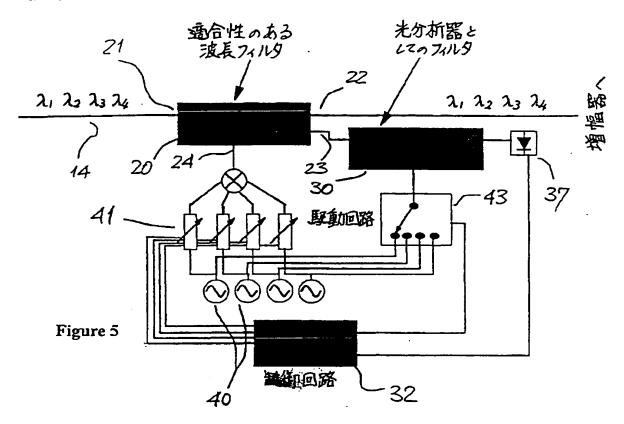


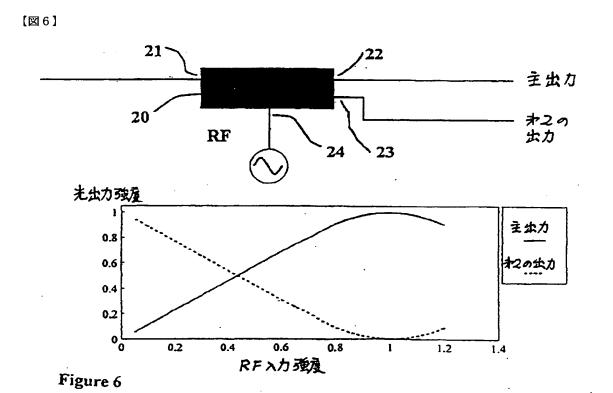
[図4]



【図5】

و. ي. أنا جوه ن

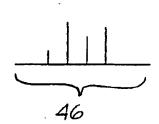




[図7]

و و کدیجی ا





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従来の光増幅器

(15)

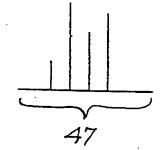
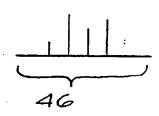
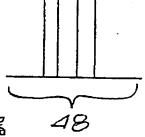


Figure 7b





適合性のある平衡と 関連付けられた光増幅器

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According to Extraction Of Stutistic MATTER TPC 6 H84J14/92  According to Extractional Patient Classification (IPC) or to both national classification symbols:  IPC 6 H84J H848  Documentation exemption committee during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms titled)  Economic data base consisted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms titled)  C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT  Category C Classification of documents, with indications, where appropriate, of the relevant passages  X. EP, A, B 637 148 (NORTHERN TELECOM LTD) 1 February 1995 Y see column 1, line 1 - column 2, line 5 See column 2, line 16 - column 3, line 35 See column 4, line 28 - line 31 Y EP, A, B 475 016 (HITACHI LTD) 18 March 1992  1.2, 13  Y EP, A, B 475 016 (HITACHI LTD) 18 March 1992  1.2, 13  See column 3, line 37 - column 4, line 9 See column 3, line 37 - line 58  EP, A, B 647 396 (CANON KK) 22 January 1992  1.2, 13  EP, A, B 647 396 (CANON KK) 22 January 1992  1.2, 13  EP, A, B 647 396 (CANON KK) 22 January 1992  1.2, 13  EP, A, B 647 396 (CANON KK) 22 January 1992  1.2, 13  EP, A, B 647 396 (CANON KK) 22 January 1992  1.2, 13  EP, A, B 647 396 (CANON KK) 22 January 1992  1.2, 13  EP, A, B 647 396 (CANON KK) 22 January 1992  2.2 There documents are listed in the continuation of box C.  EV Patent family premient are listed on the continuation of box C.  EV Patent documents the platched on or after the international filing date or promy data and not in continuation promote disting of the comments that platched onto or after the international filing data but "documents of patricular reference the distingt invention or documents of the state and complete on the international filing data but "documents of patricular reference the distingt invention or documents of the state and complete on or document or fortions of the SA.  Enoting subhered prior to the international filing data but "documents of the SA.  Enoted subhered or the SA.  Enoted subhered or the	EVIZED DIARCH REFORT		Internal V Application No PCT/GB 96/02278	
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Internet ed Application No PCT/GB 96/92278

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